

THE DAILY REBEL.

Office on Market Street, over the Bank of Tennessee.

CHATTANOOGA:

THURSDAY MORNING, DEC. 18, 1862.

THE SITUATION.

If the rains have been as abundant in Middle Tennessee, within the last twenty-four hours, as in this vicinity, the movements of Rosecrans will probably soon begin to develop themselves. At the hour of going to press we had received no additional intelligence from the direction of Murfreesboro, and the wires have not been in operation for a day or two. Occasional cavalry skirmishes occur, in the front but the "big guns" are yet silent along the valley of the Cumberland. The army of Rosecrans still lies encamped around Nashville,—on every road Southward, a division or two, within bugle sound of the city. On Thursday two thousand of the enemy's cavalry, with two pieces of artillery came up the Wilson pike to Owens' Cross Roads, and engaged some pickets at that place and soon after retired; they then went on the lower Franklin road and encamped a few miles from the town, marching on Franklin the next morning where they attacked our forces about daylight. We had one hundred and sixty men, under Col. Smith; two hundred under Lient. Col. Malone, and the whole commanded by Col. Smith. They very gallantly fought the enemy for an hour, but being overwhelmed by such great odds retired. We lost four killed and eight wounded. Among the killed was Capt. McMillan, of the 4th Tennessee, as brave and gallant an officer as any in the service.

The enemy lost three killed and six wounded. After breaking the stores, and destroying the machinery of the flour mill, they left at 11 o'clock on their return to Nashville. So soon as information reached Gen. Wharton, a force was sent out to intercept them from which we have as yet received no intelligence.

From our army in North Mississippi, we have intelligence through official sources, of stirring times. The Yankee Cavalry advanced to within two miles of Baldwin on last Sunday, and our scouts report a large force of the enemy in that vicinity. On the night of the 14th (Sunday night) the Yankee cavalry was camped six miles south of Bienville, on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, and at last accounts was believed to be advancing on Pidgin.

A telegraph just through from Eisenbush informs us that Col. Ralphy's command had a brush with the enemy last Thursday and repulsed them. Our dispatches, this morning however, bring us the information that on the next day, (Friday) the Abolitionists attacked Roddy's cavalry and routed them at Tuscumbia.

The enemy have also been making recent demonstrations on the Mississippi River with their gun-boats. On last Friday afternoon, the Essex, and a wooden craft, name unknown anchored off Port Hudson, not quite in range of our lower batteries at that point. Capt. McLain crossed the river the same night, hired a negro to haul the gun-boat Essex, which induced the enemy to send a boat ashore, when our cavalry fired upon the boat and killed one and wounded two. On last Saturday night a battery was taken across the river and placed in position opposite the boats and opened fire on them at daybreak, which fire was returned by both vessels. The engagement lasted two hours and the boats then retired down the river. The fire from our batteries was very effective in several instances the shots passed quite through the boats. The enemy's pickets now extend as far up as Donaldsonville on the river shore.

A correspondent informs us that it was Col. Bartow, and not "Bertram," as published in our dispatches from Mississippi, yesterday, who burned fifteen hundred bales of cotton belonging to Yankees speculators near Corinth, last week. Col. Bartow, says our correspondent, commands a squadron of gallant Tennesseeans—the second Tennessee Rangers, and was formerly editor of the *Plaindealer*, which used to be published at Hartsville Tennessee, the scene of the recent brilliant engagement of John Morgan.

In Virginia the campaign around Fredericksburg has assumed a more serious attitude than we had expected some weeks ago. There is no doubt that the active movements of the Federals are precipitated by the conviction in the mind of Burnside, and his partisans that the card now being played is for an otherwise lost game. We can not say, however, that the disposition, which undoubtedly animates the enemy, has any peculiar terror for us, although it may make some progress and achieve some success. In a conversation which we had with the President, he expressed a deliberate

opinion that Gen. Lee can not be driven from his present position except at a cost of ten or one, and that Burnside can make no advance of a critical character against Richmond at the present time. President Davis also expresses a most unbounded enthusiasm for the ability of Gen. Lee, and his capacity to hold his own and something more, in his usually splendid style.

CHATTANOOGA ARMY.—Through the courtesy of Capt. F. W. GARDNER, the reliable and efficient superintendent of these Works, we were pleased through the establishment yesterday. We were not a little surprised to find so extensive a concert in successful operations here in the thriving town of Chattanooga. The Army has already rendered services incalculable to the armies of the west, having issued no less than 18,000 small arms within the last six months. During the half hour we spent yesterday morning in examining the works, 173 guns were boxed and shipped away for immediate service in the field. The shop at present gives employment to 250 workmen and at one time employed over 300. We noticed a number of Percussion Locks, made by hand, the superior workmanship of which has been repeatedly acknowledged by the most experienced experts in the Department of Ordnance. Lieut. Col. Oladowski, chief of Ordnance for the Department, has himself, we are informed, often testified to the superiority of the percussion work, issued by this armory. We are satisfied the works could not be placed under the supervision of a more competent and energetic manager than our friend Gandy.

Governor of Flamingo, of Arkansas, in his inaugural address, plants his foot squarely down in favor of a resolute prosecution of the war for the independence of the South. He says that he shall use all proper exertions to maintain our common cause and our common country; and rather than fail in his duty in this respect he would prefer being a traitor in the Confederate army than Governor of a sovereign State.

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A friend sends us a specimen lump of lead ore, taken from the lead mines near Jacksonville, Ala., owned by Mr. Andrew Jackson Jr. and Mr. McRoberts of Nashville, Tenn., and Col. Parsons of Hobbs, in Dade county, Ga. These mines we understand, are not now in operation, having for some time been involved in a lawsuit. The specimen before us is a superior quality, and we are told that an article of this nature has been taken out to the amount of 15,000 tons at one blast. Such a productive mine of metal ore which is in demand at the present time.

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